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A

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

OF THE PRINCIPAL

Foreign Animals & Birds,

NOW EXHIBITING AT

THE GRAND MENAGERIE,

OVER

EXETER-'CHANGE,

The Property of

Mr GILBERT PIDCOCK,

CHIEFLY EXTRACTED FROM THE WORKS OF

BUFFON and GOLDSMITH;

WITH ADDITIONS

AND

ANECDOTES,

By T. GARNER.

London

PRINTED FOR G. PIDCOCK, AND SOLD AT
EXETER-'CHANGE.
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BRITISH MUSEUM

A

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

OF

A COLLECTION OF

Foreign Animals and Birds.

The MALE ELEPHANT.

THIS animal was brought to England in the Roſe, Eaſt-Indiaman, Capt. Dempſter, and was landed the 4th of September, 1793. Mr. Pidcock purchaſed him for one thouſand guineas. Since his arrival in this country, he has been taught to perform things almoſt incredible. At the command of his keeper, he will take up the ſmalleſt piece of money, a watch, &c. and lodge it in the pocket of any lady or gentleman in company, although they are the greateſt ſtrangers to him. He will likewiſe carefully take it out again, and return it to his keeper. He will take up a tankard of any kind of liquor, but particularly ale, with his trunk, blow it into his mouth, and in return for favours received, make a bow to the audience, which ſhews a ſtrong ſenſe of his gratitude. He will take a

piece of money from any perſon in company, and preſent it for bread, fruit, &c. to a boy who attends for the purpoſe, and return his benefactor a printed bill, with his deſcription. He has been obſerved, while his keeper was cleaning his den, to take up a broom with his proboſcis, and ſweep after him, as if willing to lend all the aſſiſtance in his power. When his keeper leaves him, he follows him to the door, ſhuts it, and ſeems highly pleaſed with what he has done.

If the human ſpecies be excepted, the elephant is the moſt reſpectable animal in the world. In ſize he ſurpaſſes all other terreſtrial creatures; and, by his intelligence, he makes as near an approach to man as matter can approach ſpirit. He has acquired more than other animals, becauſe he is more capable of making acquiſitions. They are often obſerved to aſſemble together, to diſperſe, and act in concert. The ancients regarded the elephant as a miracle of Nature; and, indeed, he is her higheſt effort.

In a wild ſtate, elephants are neither ſanguinary nor ferocious. Their diſpoſitions are gentle, and they make not a wrong uſe of their arms or their ſtrength; for they never exert them but in defending themſelves, or in protecting their companions. Their manners are ſocial; for they are ſeldom ſeen wandering alone. They generally march in troops,

the oldeſt keeping foremoſt, and the next in age bringing up the rear. The young and the feeble are placed in the middle. The mothers carry their young firmly embraced in their trunks. Some of them occaſionally wander, or lag behind the troop; and it is theſe alone whom the hunters dare attack; for a little army is neceſſary to aſſail a whole troop; and they are never vanquiſhed but at the expence of ſeveral lives. It is even dangerous to do them the ſmalleſt injury; for they run ſtrait upon the offender, and though the weight of their bodies be great, their ſteps are ſo long, that they eaſily overtake the moſt agile man. They then tranfix him with their tuſks, or, laying hold of him with their trunk, throw him on the ground, and put an end to his exiſtence by trampling him under their feet. But it is when provoked only that they kill men in this manner, and never injure thoſe who do not diſturb them.

The elephant, when tamed, becomes the moſt gentle and moſt obedient of all domeſtic animals. He is ſo fond of his keeper, that he careſſes him, and anticipates his commands, by foreſeeing every thing that will pleaſe him. He ſoon learns to comprehend ſigns, and even to underſtand the expreſſion of ſounds. He diſtinguiſhes the tones of command, of anger, or of approbation, and regulates his actions accordingly. He never miſtakes the

voice of his maſter. Alexander the Great was the firſt European who ever mounted an elephant.

The elephant delights in the ſound of muſical inſtruments, and moves in cadence to the trumpet and tabor. The trunk is compoſed of membranes, nerves, and muſcles; it is both an organ of feeling and of motion. This animal can not only move and bend it, but he can contract, lengthen, and turn it on all ſides. The extremity of the trunk terminates in a protuberance, which ſtretches out on the upper ſide in the form of a finger, by means of which the elephant performs all that we do with our fingers. His knee is like that of man*, and his foot is equally low; but the latter has no extent, ſpring, or force, and the former is hard and rigid. As long, however, as the elephant is young and in health, he bends his knees to lie down†, and allows himſelf to be mounted, or charged with a load: But, when old or ſick, this movement be-

* His knee is ſituated like that of a human being, in the middle between the thigh and the foot; ſo that the elephant's leg is ſomewhat ſimilar to man's, both with regard to the poſition of the knee and the ſmallneſs of the foot, the extent of which, from the heel to the toes, is very ſmall.

† The ſtories that are told of elephants having no joints in their legs, and that they never lie down, are fabulous.—Mr. Pidcock has had five, and they would all lie down and riſe up at the word of command.

comes ſo laborious, that he chooſes rather to ſleep on his feet; and, if forced to lie down, machines are neceſſary to raiſe him.

A ſingular circumſtance, which happened at Decan, deſerves to be related, and though it has the appearance of incredibility, it is, notwithſtanding, perfectly true: "An elephant out of revenge "killed his conductor. The man's wife, who be- "held the dreadful ſcene, took her two infants and "threw them at the feet of the enraged animal, "ſaying, *Since you have ſlain my huſband, take my "life alſo, as well as that of my children.* The ele- "phant inſtantly ſtooped, relented, and, as if ſtung "with remorſe, took the eldeſt boy in its trunk, "placed him on its neck, adopted him for its con- "ductor, and would never allow any other perſon "to mount it."

In the month of Auguſt, 1798, while Mr. Pidcock's Collection was exhibiting at Lancaſter, a number of ſailors, who had arrived at Glaſton-Dock, in a ſmall fleet from India, came to the carriages, which ſtood in the Fryerage, at midnight, and began to demoliſh them; the keeper, who ſlept near, heard the noiſe, got up, and reprimanded the ſailors, who began to ill-treat him. His cries reached the elephant; as ſoon as the animal heard his voice, he burſt open the door of his den, and was coming to the keeper's aſſiſtance, which the

ſailors perceiving, thought proper to ſheer off, and little miſchief was done.

The FEMALE ELEPHANT.

THIS animal was brought over in the Rockingham, Eaſt-Indiaman, by the Honourable Captain Hugh Lindſay, and landed the 6th day of January, 1796. Since ſhe came to Exeter-'Change ſhe has grown prodigiouſly, as at that time ſhe did not much exceed the ſize of a large hog. She has been taught to perform many things, that, without ſeeing, ſeem incredible. She locks and unlocks a door, that leads from her apartment into the great room, likewiſe removes two bolts and a ſpring, which opens the door of her den, to let her keeper go in and out; ſhe takes up a tankard of ale, with her trunk, and, in a curious manner, blows it into her mouth, after which ſhe makes a courtſey to the audience. She will lie down and riſe up when deſired.

From comparing the male and female elephants, it appears, that in general, the parts of the female are groſſer and more fleſhy. Her ears, indeed, are proportionally ſmaller than thoſe of the male: but her body is more ſwollen, her head larger, and her members more rounded.

Like all other animals, the female elephant is more gentle than the male. When elephants are brought to Exeter-'Change, they are compelled to walk up a plat-form, which is laid over the broad ſtair-caſe. To make them enter the den one keeper pricks them behind, with a ſharp-pointed ſpear, while another ſtands before, and entices them with fruit. Irritated at this treatment, they have no other method of revenge, but to fill their trunks with water, and throw it in torrents upon thoſe who had teazed them. They become tame, and ſeem reconciled in a few days.

The LION, LIONESS, and CUB.

VICTORY.

THIS noble Male Lion was cubbed in the Dey of Algiers's Menagerie, on the memorable firſt of Auguſt, 1798, the day on which Admiral Nelſon obtained the ſignal victory over the French fleet, at the mouth of the Nile, from which glorious circumſtance this animal derives his name. Although only ſeventeen months old, yet Nature has furniſhed him with a long ſhaggy mane, which covers the fore-parts of his body, and adds dignity to his appearance. As the lion has no enemy but man, and his ſpecies is

now reduced to the fiftieth part of what it formerly was, it follows, that the human race, inſtead of having ſuffered a conſiderable diminution ſince the time of the Romans, as by numbers is pretended, is, on the contrary, more numerous, and more generally diffuſed. Accuſtomed to meaſure their ſtrength with every animal they meet, the habit of conquering renders them intrepid and terrible. Having never experienced the dangerous arts and combinations of man, they have no apprehenſions from his power. They boldly face him, and ſeem to brave the force of his arms. Wounds rather ſerve to provoke their rage than to repreſs their ardour. They are not daunted even with the oppoſition of numbers; a ſingle lion of the deſert often attacks an entire caravan; and, after an obſtinate combat, when he finds himſelf overpowered, inſtead of flying, he continues to combat, retreating, and ſtill facing the enemy till he dies. By numberleſs accounts it appears, that his anger is noble, his courage magnanimous, and his diſpoſition grateful. His figure is ſtriking, his look confident and bold, his gait proud, and his voice terrible. His ſtature is not over-grown, like that of the elephant, or the rhinoceros; nor is his ſhape clumſy, like that of the hippopotamus, or the ox. He is in every reſpect compact, well-proportioned, and ſizeable; a perfect model of ſtrength joined with agility. He is muſcular, bold, and neither charged with fat, nor unneceſſary fleſh.

It is ſufficient to ſee him in order, to be aſſured of his ſuperior force.

That force, that muſcular power, he manifeſts outwardly by his prodigious leaps and bounds; by the ſtrong and quick agitation of his tail, which alone is ſufficient to throw a man on the ground. The lion is frequently ſpoken of in Scripture, and is eſteemed the king of four-footed beaſts.

The characteriſtics of the lion are the ſtrength of his limbs, the majeſty of his appearance, the dignity of his pace, the fire of his eyes, and the nobleneſs of his diſpoſition; he ſlights a weak enemy, but attacks a ſtrong one with the moſt impetuous fury. He expreſſes his anger by erecting his mane, and beating his ſides with his tail; but his hunger and ferocious temper often gives way to his generoſity:

" For when the gen'rous lion has in ſight
" His equal match, he rouſes for the fight:
" But when his foe lies proſtrate on the plain,
" He ſheaths his paws, uncurls his angry mane,
" And, pleas'd with bloodleſs honours of the day,
" Walks over, and diſdains th' inglorious prey.

Victory was brought to Exeter-'Change, the 21ſt day of December, 1799.

The LIONESS.

THE female differs from the male, ſhe having no mane; nor is her roaring ſo tremendous as that of the male. There is a degree of generoſity in her looks, which is pleaſing to the beholder. In all her dimenſions, the lioneſs is about one fourth leſs than the lion. This animal is ſaid to be the largeſt of her age, ever ſeen in Great Britain; ſhe is about three years old. She was landed in England, the 25th day of April, 1798, and immediately ſent to Exeter-'Change.

HECTOR

WAS landed at the Cuſtom-Houſe, the 16th of November, 1799. This young animal is ſo tame, that his keeper goes into his den, and plays with him. The affability of this noble creature may be farther illuſtrated, by an inſtance known of a lion having ſo ſtrong an affection for his keeper, that when the man was taken ill, and unable to attend him, he refuſed to take food from another perſon, and ſeemed to fret much. His keeper ſhortly recovered; as ſoon as he came to his den, the lion looked cheerful, ſuffered him to go in as uſual, and began to take his food.

FOUR ROYAL BENGAL TIGERS.

IN Africa, and in the ſouthern parts of Aſia, tigers are common; but the real tiger is a ſcarce animal, an animal which was little known by the ancients, and which has been badly deſcribed by the moderns. The largeſt of theſe animals meaſures ſeven feet from head to tail, and is ſo powerful as to carry away a buffalo with eaſe. One of the females brought forth three cubs on the 4th of June, 1798, the only inſtance of tigers being known to breed in this country. The young ones are exhibited near the den of their dam. The four tigers mentioned, arrived at Exeter-'Change at different times within the laſt four years.

The tiger is ſaid to be of the lion ſpecies: it is ſo nimble and active, that the poets have repreſented it generated by the wind. The Chineſe tiger exceeds moſt others both in ſize and fierceneſs; in the Mogul court they ſhew combats between men and tigers for ſport. Charles Theodore Middleton, Eſq. in his New and Complete Syſtem of Geography, ſays, "The manner of one of theſe "fights, which was exhibited at Agra (when the Mo-"guls kept their court there) with reſpect to the tiger, "is thus deſcribed. A tiger was then brought to "the ring, which was encountered by a very ſtrong "man; but the tiger was ſo active, that he ſuddenly "leaped on his antagoniſt, and tore him to pieces.

" A very ſmall perſon then engaged the tiger, " and, at the firſt encounter, cut off both his fore- " feet, which obliged him to fall; he then purſued " his efforts, and ſoon killed him. On this the " king calling to him, aſked his name; to which he " anſwered, Geiby: the king then ordered one of " his ſervants to carry him a cloth of gold, who, " when he delivered it to him, ſaid, Geiby, re- " ceive this coat, which the Mogul of his bounty " hath ſent. The conqueror received the coat with " great humility, kiſſed it ſeven times, and after- " wards holding it up, prayed to himſelf for the " Mogul's proſperity; which done, he cried aloud, " God grant the Mogul to grow as great as Tamer- " lain, from whom he is derived; may he live ſeven " hundred years, and his generation continue for " ever. After he had thus expreſſed himſelf, he " was conducted by an unuch to the king, who, on " his going away, ſaid, " Be praiſed, Geiby Chan, " for your heroic exploits; this name you ſhall keep " for ever; I am your favourable lord, and you my " vaſſal."

This may be called ſport, and afford amuſe- ment to the natives of thoſe countries where it is practiſed; but in England, the human mind would ſhudder at the very idea of a fellow-creature being expoſed to ſo furious an animal as a tiger.

The RHINOCEROS.

THE Rhinoceros, when full grown, meaſures at leaſt twelve feet long, from the extremity of the muzzle, to the origin of the tail, and the circumference of his body is nearly equal to his length. In magnitude, therefore, he makes a near approach to the elephant; and he appears to be much leſs, only becauſe his legs are proportionally ſhorter than thoſe of the elephant. But he differs ſtill more from this animal in his natural powers and intelligence; for Nature has beſtowed on him nothing that elevates him above the ordinary rank of quadrupeds. He is deprived of all ſenſibility in his ſkin; neither has he hands to enable him to improve by the ſenſe of touching; and inſtead of a trunk, he has only a moveable lip, to which all his means of dexterity or addreſs are limited. His chief ſources of ſuperiority over other animals conſiſts in his ſtrength, his magnitude, and the offenſive weapon of his noſe, which is entirely peculiar to him. This weapon is a very hard horn, ſolid throughout its whole extent, and ſituated more advantageouſly than the horns of ruminating animals, which defend only the ſuperior parts of the head and neck. For this reaſon, the tiger will rather attack the elephant, whoſe trunk he lays hold of, than the rhinoceros, whom he dare not face, without running the riſk of having his bowels torn out; for the body and limbs of the rhinoceros are covered with

a ſkin ſo impenetrable, that he fears neither the claws of the lion or tiger, nor the ſword or ſhot of the hunter. His ſkin is of a blackiſh colour, but thicker and harder than that of the elephant. His head is proportionally longer than the elephant's; but his eyes are ſtill ſmaller, and ſeldom above half open. The upper, which projects over the under lip, is moveable, and can be ſtretched out about ſix inches in length; and it is terminated by a pointed appendix, which gives this animal a power of collecting herbage in handfuls, as the elephant does with his trunk. Inſtead of thoſe long ivory tuſks which conſtitute the armour of the elephant, the rhinoceros has a formidable horn, and two ſtrong inciſive teeth in each jaw.

Though the rhinoceros was frequently exhibited in the Roman ſpectacles from the days of Pompey to thoſe of Heliogabalus; though he has often been tranſported into Europe in more modern times; and though Bonitus, Chardin, and Kolben, have drawn figures of him both in India and Africa; yet ſo ill was he repreſented and deſcribed, that he was very imperfectly known till the errors and caprices of thoſe who had publiſhed figures of him were detected by inſpection of the animals which arrived in London in the years 1739 and 1741, and thoſe which were brought to Exeter-'Change within the laſt ſeven years.

The rhinoceros, which came to London in the year 1739, was ſent from Bengal. Though not above two years of age, the expence of his food and journey amounted to near one thouſand pounds ſterling. He was fed with rice, ſugar, and hay. He had daily ſeven pounds of rice, mixed with three pounds of ſugar, and divided into three portions. He had likewiſe hay, corn, and green herbs, which laſt he preferred to hay. His drink was water, of which he took large quantities at a time. He was of a peaceable diſpoſition, and allowed all parts of his body to be touched.

When the rhinoceros is taken young he is eaſily tamed; but if taken after he has grown to his full ſize, it is with difficulty he is brought to ſubjection. He ſeems even to be ſubject to paroxyſms of fury, which nothing can appeaſe; for the one which Emanuel, King of Portugal, ſent to the Pope, in the year 1513, deſtroyed the veſſel in which they were tranſporting him; and the rhinoceros, which was exhibited in Paris, was drowned in the ſame manner in his voyage to Italy.

The rhinoceros never attacks any perſon, nor becomes furious, unleſs he is provoked, and then his ferocity is tremendous. His ſenſe of ſmelling is ſurpriſingly acute: when he ſees any thing he purſues it in a right line, and tears up every thing in his way; but it is one happineſs that his eyes are

exceeding ſmall, and ſo fixed, that he can only ſee ſtraight forward, ſo that it is eaſy to avoid him by ſlipping aſide, as he is a long time in turning himſelf, and longer ſtill in getting ſight again of his object. He will not, however, attack a man, unleſs provoked, or unleſs he is dreſſed in ſcarlet. In a wild ſtate, he feeds principally on ſhrubs, thiſtles, and a plant, which reſembles the juniper, and which, from his fondneſs of it, is called *Rhinoceros-buſh.*

The rhinoceros is ſo powerful, that with his horn he tears up the ground, rips up the elephant, to whom he is a mortal enemy, pulls up trees by their roots, and throws large ſtones over his head at a great diſtance. His grunt is ſomething ſimilar to that of a hog. They are chiefly natives of Aſia and Africa.

The wonderful works of the Creator are curiouſly diſplayed in this ſurpriſing Herculian quadruped: he is ſaid to be more compact in his formation, and ſtronger made than the elephant. I have ſeen one that, at the age of three years, weighed near a tun weight.

The female produces but one at a time, and at conſiderable intervals. During the firſt month, the young rhinoceros exceeds not the ſize of a Newfoundland dog.

The ZEBRA.

WHETHER we conſider ſymmetry of ſhape, or beauty of colours, the zebra is perhaps the moſt elegant of all quadrupeds. In this animal, the figure and gracefulneſs of the horſe are united with the nimbleneſs of the ſtag. His ſkin is adorned with black and white ſtripes, alternately diſpoſed, with ſuch regularity and exact proportion, that Nature ſeems here to have employed the rule and compaſs. Theſe alternate bands of black and white are the more ſingular, becauſe they are ſtraight, parallel, and as nicely ſeparated as thoſe of a ſtriped ſtuff. Beſides, they extend not only over the body, but the head, thighs, legs, and even the ears and tail; ſo that, at a diſtance, the whole body of the animal has the appearance of being artificially adorned, in the moſt elegant manner, with ribbands.

The head of the zebra reſembles a fine horſe, his body ſomething like a mule, but it ſeems to be a diſtinct ſpecies of itſelf, different to either the horſe, aſs, or mule; in ſhort, the diſtinguiſhed works of the Creator are wonderfully diſplayed in the beauty and elegance of this extraordinary animal.

The zebra ſeems to bear a greater affinity in ſhape and make to the horſe than the aſs. Indeed the ears are ſomething like thoſe of the latter animal,

but in all other reſpects it has a much more noble appearance. It is admirably well made, exceeding lively, and ſo extremely ſwift, that it throws almoſt every purſuer at a diſtance. It has fine legs, a tufted tail, round fleſhy haunches, and a ſmooth ſkin. The females are more variegated than the males, for Nature has adorned them with three diſtinct coloured ſtripes, particularly about the head; theſe colours are black, white, and brown. Moſt naturaliſts affirm, that the zebra can never be tamed;* that which was preſented to her preſent majeſty, and kept ſeveral years at the ſtables near Buckingham Gate, continued vicious till its death—though it was brought over young, and every poſſible means uſed to render it tractable: it fed upon hay, and the noiſe it made did not in the leaſt reſemble the braying of an aſs, but ſomething ſimilar to a poſtman's horn.

The zebra, is neither a horſe nor an aſs; for, though it has often been attempted, we never learned that they intermixed and produced together. This animal is neither a native of Europe, Aſia, America, nor any of the northern parts of

* The compiler of this deſcription has ſeen two fine zebras, male and female; he has mounted them both, rode them, and has not the leaſt doubt but they may be ſufficiently broke, ſo as to run in a curricle, &c. Theſe beautiful animals were taken on the plains that lie contiguous to the Cape of Good Hope.

Africa. Thoſe mentioned by ſome voyagers to have been found in Braſil, had been tranſported thither, from their native country. Others, which have been ſeen in Perſia,* and in Turkey, had been brought to theſe countries, from Æthiopia. In fine, almoſt all thoſe we have ſeen in Europe, came from the plains which lie near the Cape.

The zebra ſeems to pay attention to ſome ſorts of muſical inſtruments, particularly the bag-pipe; but the ſound of a drum he has an utter averſion to. I have ſeen one, that was ſo much frightened at the ſound of this war-like inſtrument, that he broke his collar, bounced againſt the rack, where he was feeding, foamed at the mouth, and became literally mad.† An experienced farrier was ſent for, who took from him near a quart of blood; this had the deſired effect; the animal recovered, and is now in perfect health. I believe at preſent he is on his paſſage to Germany, Mr. Pidcock having ſold him and ſome other natural curioſities to a Mr. Alpey, who is one of the Emperor's agents.

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* The ambaſſadors, from Æthiopia to the Mogul, muſt give a preſent of a kind of mule, whoſe ſkin is ſhown as a great variety. No tiger is ſo finely marked, no ſilken ſtuff is ſtriped with ſuch variety, order, and proportion, as the ſkin of this animal.

† The circumſtance alluded to, happened at Cirenceſter, in Glouceſterſhire, in the year 1798.

SIX KANGAROOS.

FIVE of theſe animals were brought from Botany-Bay, in the Barwell, and landed at Greenhithe, in September, 1799; they were immediately ſent to Exeter-'Change. One of the females brought forth a young one, during the paſſage to England; it is exhibited in the ſame den with its dam. One of the males ſtands five feet ſix inches high, walks upright, ſupports himſelf on his tail, and is ſhown wreſtling with his keeper, in the ſame manner as when taken in the foreſt by the natives of New South Wales.

The Kangaroo (but by the natives *Patagarang)* is found in great numbers. The ſtrength this animal has in its hind quarters is very great; in its endeavours to eſcape from the hunters, it ſprings from its hind legs, which are very long, and leaps at each bound about thirty feet, but does not appear in running to let its fore feet come near the ground; indeed they are ſo very ſhort, that it is impoſſible that the animal can uſe them in running: they have vaſt ſtrength in their tail, which, when full grown, meaſures 40 inches long, and 17 in circumference at the root; it is, no doubt, a principal part of their defence, when attacked; for with it they can ſtrike with prodigious force, I believe with ſufficient power to break the leg of a man; nor is it improbable that this great ſtrength in their tail may aſſiſt

them in making thoſe aſtoniſhing ſprings. They are hunted with hounds, in the woods, which places are moſt frequented by thoſe animals. As ſoon as the dog ſeizes the kangaroo, he turns, and, catching hold with the nails of his fore paws, ſtrikes at him with the claws of his hind feet, which are wonderfully ſtrong, and tears him to ſuch a degree, that it frequently happens that the hunters are under the neceſſity of carrying the dog home, from the ſeverity of his wounds: few of theſe animals have ever effected their eſcape, after being ſeized by the dog, for they generally take the Kangaroos by the throat, and there hold them till they are aſſiſted, although many of the dogs have nearly loſt their lives in the ſtruggle.

Some of the male kangaroos are of a very large ſize; I have ſeen ſome, that when ſitting on their haunches, were five feet eight inches high; ſuch an animal is too ſtrong for a ſingle dog, and although he might be much wounded, would, without the dog had aſſiſtance at hand, certainly kill him. The kangaroo feeds on vegetables alone.

The MUSK KANGAROO.

THIS animal has been at Exeter-'Change upwards of two years; he is become quite tame and inoffenſive; his ſkin is covered with a kind of ſoft

down, and he will ſuffer any perſon to touch him.

Although this animal is very old, and has been a long time in captivity, yet I have ſeen him take thoſe ſurpriſing leaps above-mentioned, when he was exhibited in the great room, over Exeter-'Change. From the great danger of his leaping near the dens of the two male lions, which have lately arrived there, the Proprietor has, I think, very wiſely, removed him, and he and the other five are at preſent in the ſame apartment as the elephant.

The PANTHER, the OUNCE, and the LEOPARD.

EACH of theſe animals have not only been miſtaken by naturaliſts for one of the other two, but have been confounded with certain animals of the ſame kind that are found in America.

The firſt ſpecies of this kind, which exiſts in the Old Continent, is the *large panther*, which we ſhall ſimply call *panther*, which the Greeks diſtinguiſhed by the name of *pardalis*, the ancient Latins, firſt by the name of *panthera*, afterwards by that of *pardus*, and the modern Latins, by the name of *leopardus*. The body of this animal, when it has attained its

full growth, is five or ſix feet in length, from the tip of the noſe, to the inſertion of the tail, which is above two feet long. Its ſkin is of a yellow hue, more or leſs dark on the back and ſides, and whitiſh under the belly; it is marked with black ſpots annular, or in the form of beads; of theſe rings the generality have one or more ſpots in the centre, of the ſame colour as the extremity of the ring; ſome of them are oval, the others circular; and they are frequently above three inches in diameter.

THE ſecond ſpecies is the *little panther* of Oppian *, which the ancients have diſtinguiſhed by no particular name, but which our modern travellers have called *ounce*, or *onza*, corruptedly from the name *lynx*, or *lunx*.. To this animal we ſhall preſerve the name of *ounce*, which, as it has in fact ſome affinity to the lynx, ſeems to be properly applied. It is much ſmaller than the panther; its body, which is nearly of the ſize of the lynx, being but about three feet and a half in length. Its hair, as alſo its tail, are longer than thoſe of the panther. The latter frequently meaſures above three feet.

* Opianus, *de venatione.*

The third ſpecies is unnoticed by the ancients, as it belongs to Senegal, to Guinea, and to other ſouthern countries which they had not diſcovered. This animal we ſhall call *leopard;* a name which has been improperly applied to the large panther. It is ſomewhat larger than the ounce, but conſiderably ſmaller than the panther, being only four feet in length. The tail meaſures two feet or two feet and a half. On the back and ſides the hair is of a yellow colour, more or leſs deep; under the belly it is whitiſh; the ſpots are annular, but ſmaller, and leſs reglarly diſpoſed.

A ſingular circumſtance happened on the 4th of June, 1795, between Hockley and Brickhill, Buckinghamſhire, on the Coventry road:—A large panther, which is now at Exeter-'Change, having got upon the high-road, by the breaking down of a caravan, in which he was travelling, ſtopped the Liverpool mail-coach, upwards of an hour. The guard fired at him ſeveral times without ſucceſs. However, he retired into a wood, and the coach paſſed without receiving the ſmalleſt injury. The next morning, to the aſtoniſhment of every perſon near, he returned to the carriage, which was waiting to be repaired, climbed into his den, and ſuffered a collar to be put round his neck, and made ſecure. This can only be accounted for, by his not meeting with any animals in the wood to devour, and the night being very tempeſtuous with thunder, light-

ning, and rain. Before he met the mail-coach, he had killed a beautiful animal, called the Nylghau, which was travelling in the above caravan, when it broke down.

THREE HYÆNAS.

ONE of theſe animals, which is ſpotted, has been in England many years; the other two are ſtriped, male and female; they lately arrived at Exeter-'Change.

The hyæna is a ſolitary creature, reſides in the caverns of mountains, in the clefts of rocks, or in dens, which it has formed for itſelf under the earth. Though taken ever ſo young, it is incapable of being tamed. It lives by depredation, like the wolf; but it is an animal more ſtrong, and ſeemingly more daring. It defends itſelf againſt the lion, ſtands in no awe of the panther, and attacks the ounce, which is incapable of reſiſting it. When at a loſs for other prey, it ſcrapes up the earth with its feet, and devours the carcaſes both of animals and men, which, in the countries that it inhabits, are interred promiſcuouſly in the fields. We find this creature in almoſt all the hot climates of Africa, and of Aſia.

Of few animals have ſo many abſurd ſtories been told as of the animal before us. The ancients have gravely written, that the hyæna is male and female alternately; that when it is with young, and when it had to ſuckle and rear its progeny, it remained for one year in the female ſtate; but that, the year following, it reſumed the functions of the male, and made its mate reſume thoſe of the female. It plainly appears, however, that the circumſtance which gave riſe to this fable, is, the opening in the form of a cleft, which both the male and the female have, independently of the parts deſtined for the purpoſes of generation; parts, which, in either ſex of the hyæna, are the ſame as in all other animals. It has, moreover, been affirmed, that this creature could imitate the human voice, that it remembered the names of the ſhepherds, called to them, and rendered them motionleſs; that, at the ſame time, it gave chace to the ſhepherdeſſes, cauſed them to forget their flocks, to be diſtracted with love, &c.

All theſe things might ſurely happen without the intervention of an hyæna.

When the hyæna is irritated by any perſon, he erects the briſtles on his back and neck, runs ſtraight at the offender, and if kept at a diſtance by an offenſive weapon, he remains in a fixed attitude, and ſnarls like a dog.

It has frequently been attempted to tame the hyæna, when brought to this country, and even after having being in captivity a number of years. I lately ſaw an animal, called the laughing hyæna, which I was informed had been in England fourteen years, and though every means had been tried that could be thought of, to tame him, yet he remains ſavage to this day.

THE HEIFER WITH TWO HEADS.

THIS heifer was bred by a Mr. Benjamin Penny, of Shire, now of Court Hill, in the pariſh of Bradford, in the county of Worceſter, yeoman. This ſingular phænomenon cauſed a great number of farmers and others to come and ſee it; and it being a cuſtom in that country to aſk ſuch viſitors to drink ſome cyder, and eat ſome bread and cheeſe, the farmer being a generous man, and his viſitors, attracted by curioſity, ſo numerous, that in three weeks time he gave away (as I am informed by a gentleman) three hundred and thirty-ſix gallons of

cyder, and bread and cheeſe in proportion! He then ſold it to a Mr. Meek, for the ſmall ſum of five guineas, who exhibited it in many parts of England, and accumulated an immenſe fortune thereby; and ſold her to a Doctor Barrow, who ſold her again to Mr. Pidcock, who exhibited her at the Lyceum in the Strand, in the year 1791. I am informed the laſt purchaſe was 150*l.*

In the ſpring of 1798, Mr. Pidcock ſold the above-mentioned heifer, to a foreigner, who intended to take her to Hamburgh, and there exhibit her. When this animal was ſold, ſhe was in Mr. Pidcock's collection, which were at Alnwick, in Northumberland, on their return from a tour through Scotland. The agreement was, that the heifer ſhould be delivered to the purchaſer, in London: accordingly Mr. Pidcock ſent her off, ſeemingly in perfect health, in a caravan, drawn by four horſes, and two men to attend her. When they arrived at Durham, the animal was taken ill, and, inſtead of waiting till an experienced cow-doctor could be ſent for, they purſued their journey at a quick rate (anxious, no doubt, to execute their orders) by which means they over-heated her, and ſhe died a few hours after ſhe reached the metropolis.

Thus the proprietor ſuffered a loſs of the whole of the purchaſe-money, which was one hundred and

ſeventy guineas, beſides the expence of her journey from Alnwick to London, a diſtance of three hundred and ten miles.

END OF THE DESCRIPTION OF ANIMALS.

Theſe are only a few of the principal Foreign Animals, which are exhibited in Mr. Pidcock's Menagerie; there are a great many other different ſorts, which, to give a deſcription of, would far exceed the limits of this Publication.

A

DESCRIPTION

OF

Curious Foreign Birds.

TWO CROWN CRANES.

THESE birds are natives of Africa, they are found on the Gold Coaſt, and are thought more beautiful than thoſe in other parts of Guinea. They are about the ſize of the Numidian Damſel (a bird ſo called), and "they receive their name "from a large tuft that grows on their heads, "ſome of which are red, others blue, and ſome of "them of a ſhining gold. Their bodies are chiefly "covered with black feathers; the ſides of their "heads are beautified with purple ſpots; and the "feathers of the wings and tail are of different "colours, as red, yellow, white, and black. Their

" tails are very long, and the negroes pluck the " feathers to ornament their heads." For this quotation, I acknowledge myſelf indebted to Charles Theodore Middleton.

A SILVER VULTURE, or CONDOR MINOR.

THIS bird, as deſcribed by the keeper, is, " a " Braſilian Condor, of a prodigious extent of wing, " a moſt ravenous bird, and a great deſtroyer of " young cattle." It is a native of South-America; in a wild ſtate it is very voracious, and will frequently alight on the back of a lamb, and carry it away with eaſe. Its neck is quite bare, being entirely free from feathers.

TWO INDIAN DOVES.

THEY are ſaid to be the only birds of the kind ever exhibited in Great Britain. Theſe doves are very beautiful; they are adorned with a fine blue plumage, which much reſembles broad lace.

Theſe birds are about the ſize of an Engliſh game-cock; the colour of their feathers are blue, white, and red.

The PELICAN of the WILDERNESS.

THE pelican is more intereſting to the naturaliſt, by its greater ſtature and large pouch under its bill, than by the fabulous celebrity of its name, ſacred among the religious emblems of ignorant nations. It has been employed to repreſent maternal tenderneſs, tearing its breaſt to nouriſh its languiſhing family with its blood. This tale, which the Egyptians had before related of the vulture, cannot apply to the pelican, which lives in abundance, and even enjoys an advantage over the other piſcivorous birds, being provided with a bag for ſtoring its proviſions.

This bird indifferently frequents freſh and ſalt water, foreſts, and groves; the principal things on which it feeds are fiſh and water inſects. It builds its neſt in the receſſes of groves, or in buſhy places, and then repairs to the ſea ſide, or to rivers, in ſearch of prey; when, having fed itſelf, it fills the fleſhy bag at its throat, or under the beak, with proviſions to carry to its young, who feed from this natural ſtore-houſe with uncommon voraciouſneſs; and hence aroſe the fable, that the pelican feeds its young with its own blood!

For, ſays an ingenious naturaliſt, "if ſome perſon, "in early time, quite unacquainted with the hiſtory "of this bird, ſaw her alight in the midſt of a deſert,

" among a brood of ravenous young ones, and feed
" them from this bag, it would not be unnatural
" for him to ſuppoſe, however ſtrange the thing
" muſt be in itſelf, that it was with her own blood
" ſhe fed them. Thus aroſe, from a miſtake, the
" ſtory of this wonder, which plodding ignorance
" hath propagated through ſo many ages, and
" which moraliſts and poets have, from the earli-
" eſt times, drawn into an emblem of paternal af-
" fection."

The pelican equals, or even ſurpaſſes, the bulk of the ſwan, and would be the largeſt of all the aquatic birds, were not the albatroſs thicker, and the flamingo much taller on its legs. Thoſe of the pelican, on the contrary, are very low; but its wings are ſo broad as to extend eleven or twelve feet. It therefore, ſupports itſelf eaſily, and for a length of time, in the air: it balances itſelf with alertneſs, and never changes its place but to dart directly downwards on its prey, which cannot eſcape; for the violence of the daſh, and its wide-ſpread wings, which ſtrike and cover the ſurface of the water, make it boil and whirl, and at the ſame time ſtun the fiſh, and deprive it of the power of flight. Such is their mode of fiſhing when alone; but in large flocks they vary their manœuvres, and act in concert: they range themſelves in a line, and ſwim in company, forming a large circle, which they

contract by degrees to incloſe the fiſhes, and they ſhare the capture at their convenience.

The pelican is a native of as many various countries as the lion.

TWO OSTRICHES.

THESE ſtupendous birds are natives of Barbary, and are the largeſt of all the feathered tribe.—Their wings are exceeding ſtrong, but they are too ſhort to enable them to fly, though they ſerve them as ſails, and aſſiſt them to run with great expedition. "The Arabs of the deſert generally follow the em- "ployment of plundering or hunting, the latter of "which is the moſt common, and their principal "object is the oſtrich, which is there in great "abundance. Though theſe birds are ſo large, that "they cannot fly; yet, by the fluttering of their "wings, and the ſwift motion of their feet, they "will, for ſome time, run ſo faſt that it is difficult "even for a horſe to overtake them; and when "they find their purſuers near, they will throw "back the ſtones and ſand on them with pro- "digious force: their great bulk, however, at "length tiring them out, they are obliged to ſub- "mit, when their purſuers quickly diſpatch "them. It has been a generally received opinion

" of the oſtrich's laying its eggs in the ſand, and " leaving them to be hatched by the ſun; notwith- " ſtanding which, a late author affirms, that they ſit " on their eggs like other birds, and that the male " and female take it by turns; that they do not " abandon their young immediately after they come " out of the ſhell, but bring them graſs, and are " very careful in defending them from danger. " The notion of their digeſting iron,* &c. is a " popular error, they only taking up nails or bits of " iron, as hens and other fowls do ſmall ſtones, to " aſſiſt in comminuting and digeſting their food." Dr. Brooke, in his Natural Hiſtory, ſays, " an " oſtrich is the moſt greedy bird that is known, for " it will devour any thing give him; however, he " does not digeſt iron and ſtones, as ſome have " pretended, but voids them whole."

Some years ago, when Mr. Pidcock's caravans were travelling between Gainſbro' and Brigg, in Lincolnſhire, a tremendous ſtorm of thunder and lightning came on, which frightened the horſes,

* The ſtories that are told of oſtriches digeſting iron and other hard ſubſtances are fabulous. Mr. Pidcock had one opened, and in its gizzard were found between forty and fifty halfpence, a quantity of nails, glaſs, ſmall pebbles, &c. ſome of which he gave me. They were covered with a kind of green matter. They had been thrown into its cage when travelling in different parts of the country.

that were drawing the oſtriches, to ſuch a degree, that they ſet off with the caravan, threw it over, and killed theſe two valuable birds.

This accident may be chiefly attributed to the negligence of the driver, who was riding on the ſhafts of the waggon, when the horſes took fright.

At the time the above circumſtance happened, Mr. Davies, the Iriſh Dwarf, who was about three feet high, well proportioned, and could lift two men, each weighing twenty-one ſtone, was riding in the caravan; he had the misfortune to have his ſhoulder diſlocated by the falling of the carriage. He, however, ſoon recovered.

I have been informed that Mr. Davies was at that time hired to Mr. Pidcock, who exhibited him in various parts of the kingdom. This man, after ſaving ſome money in England, determined to return to his native country, for which purpoſe he embarked in a veſſel, that ſailed from Liverpool. Elated with his good fortune, he drank to exceſs, and would frequently ſhow his money to ſome of the ſailors, who contrived to let him walk overboard, and leave his money behind him. It is ſuppoſed he went to the bottom, and was never heard of more.

THE EGYPTIAN IBIS.

The ancient Egyptians uſed to worſhip the ibis; as they thought that this was the bird which freed their country from the locuſts and other inſects with which it was infeſted; and therefore, they enacted a law, which made it death to any perſon who ſhould be convicted of killing it.

The ſtork ſeems a general favourite, even among the moderns; but with the ancient Egyptians, their regard was carried even to adoration.

It has been uſually ſuppoſed, that the ancient ibis is the ſame with that which goes at preſent by the ſame name; a bird of the ſtork kind, of about the ſize of the curlew, all over black, with a bill very thick in the beginning, but ending in a point for the better ſeizing its prey, which is caterpillars, locuſts, and ſerpents. But, however uſeful the modern ibis may be in ridding Egypt, (where it reſides,) of the vermin and venomous animals that infeſt it; yet it is much doubted whether this be the ſame ibis to which the ancients paid their adoration. Maillet, the French conſul at Cairo, obſerves, that it is very hard to determine what bird the ancient ibis certainly was, becauſe there are cranes, ſtorks, hawks, kites, and falcons, that are all equal enemies to ſerpents, and devour

a vaſt number. He farther adds, that in the month of May, when the winds begin to blow from the internal parts of Africa, there are ſeveral ſorts of birds that come down from Upper Egypt, from whence they are driven by the rains, in ſearch of a better habitation, and that it is then they do this country ſuch ſignal ſervices. Nor does the figure of this bird, hieroglyphically repreſented on their pillars, mark it ſufficiently to make the diſtinction. Beſides, the modern ibis is not peculiar to Egypt, as it is to be ſeen but at certain ſeaſons of the year; whereas, we are informed, by Pliny, that this bird was ſeen no where elſe. It is thought, therefore, that the true ibis is a bird of the vulture kind, and called by ſome the *Capon of Pharaoh*, which not only is a devourer of ſerpents, but will follow the caravans that go to Mecca, to feed upon the offal of the animals that are killed on the journey.

THE SEGATAIR.

THIS curious bird is a native of the Eaſt, and differs from the reſt of the eagle ſpecies: his legs are very long; he is a very bold bird, and when alive, the keeper uſed to let him out of his pen (for theſe

large birds are kept moſtly in ſeparate apartments); he then walked the great room in a pleaſing attitude, inſomuch that the perſon who deſcribed him, would often ſay, that he walked like a dancing-maſter; but I think more like a ſoldier, for he walked boldly, and ſtepped with great propriety. In his native country, he is a great devourer of reptiles, inſtead of which, they uſed to ſubſtitute eels, to ſhew the company how he performed this native buſineſs. They tied a ſtring to the eel's tail, and put it down in the room; on it moving, or being moved, on its getting ſight of it, it would raiſe its creſt and wings, and ſtrike the eel with its talons on the head, kill it, and then eat it, if permitted. The eye of this bird is very remarkable and uncommon, the upper eye-laſh being furniſhed with fine feathers or hair, projecting as in the human ſpecies.

THE CASSOWARY.

THE caſſowary is next in ſize to the oſtrich, and, like him, cannot fly. A French author informs us this bird was never ſeen in Europe till the year 1597, as no author, either of the ancients or moderns, hath ſpoken of it till that time. The Hollanders brought

one at the return of their firſt voyage from India; it was given them as a great rarity by a Prince of the Iſle of Java. The plumage is ſingular, being nearly black, and reſembling hair nearly as much as feathers, without cloſe inſpection; it has two long tubes or branches proceeding from a ſhort ſtem, which is faſtened to the ſkin; the wing is ſo little that it does not appear, being quite hid under the feathers of the back, except five black quills which proceed from each wing, and nearly reſemble thoſe of the porcupine. That deſcribed by Mr. White, which was ſhot at Botany-Bay, or New South Wales, is nearly the ſame, viz. "That it has two quills, with their web ariſing "out of one ſhaft; it has a horny ſubſtance, or "appendage on the top of the head, and the "feathers look more like hairs than feathers; "the ſmall wings, which ſerve it in running "(for it cannot fly), has five quills: it is "ſaid, they have no gizzard or ſecond ſtomach, "and the liver is not bigger than that of a black-"bird (or at leaſt this was the caſe of the one ſhot "in New Holland), and that the crop or ſtomach "was filled with at leaſt ſix or ſeven pounds "of graſs, flowers, and a few berries and "ſeeds."

Mr. Pidcock informs me, he was in poſſeſſion of one ſome years ſince that lay four eggs, one at

Warwick, one at Oxford,* one at Hammerſmith, and one at Abingdon, which laſt Mr. Pidcock preſented to the Queen, at the Royal Palace, Windſor. Her Majeſty ordered it to be preſerved, and ſent to the Cottage at Richmond.

I lately ſaw one of the four eggs above-mentioned; it was of a blue colour, with dark ſpecks, and ſomething bigger than a ſwan's egg.

In the year 1779, when Mr. Pidcock was exhibiting his grand caſſowar, at Durham, it died: this was a great loſs, as the bird coſt him an immenſe ſum of money, and it was the only one alive in this country. He had it opened, but could not diſcover the cauſe of its death; he therefore ſtuffed it himſelf, and it is now in the great room, over Exeter-'Change.

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* When Mr. Pidcock was exhibiting his grand caſſowary at Oxford, ſome years back, it layed an egg, and on the Proprietor's advertiſing that ſuch a circumſtance had happened, a number of Collegians, who doubted the truth of this aſſertion, went in a body to ſee it; they had prepared themſelves with a ſmall drill, with which they made two holes, one at each end of the ſhell; this done, a perſon in company was deſired to blow through the ſhell, and it produced a fine yolk: the Collegians, having had ocular demonſtration, went away ſatisfied. This cauſed a great number of the inhabitants of Oxford, to come and ſee the bird and the egg mentioned.

DIMENSIONS

OF THE

CASSOWARY,

NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF

Mr. GILBERT PIDCOCK.

BILL—black, almoſt ſtraight, about five inches long.

Noſtrils—oval, towards the top of the bill.

Tongue—none; as far as can be ſeen.

Gullet—through which the food deſcends, entirely on the right ſide.

Windpipe—diſtinct from the gullet, and nearly in the middle of the neck.

Eye-lids—bluiſh green.

The *helmet*, or *hard callous ſubſtance* on the head, is of a browniſh-black colour, with a mixture of yellow, particularly on the hind part of it; the callous ſubſtance begins about the middle of the bill, and reaches to the back of the head; it is about five inches in its greateſt length, and three inches in height.

The *head*, to the beginning of the neck, is of a bluiſh green.

The back part of the *neck*, to near the ſhoulders, is red.

The *throat* and under part of the *neck* is purple.

Two ſmall *wattels*, of a light blue, on the under part of the neck, near the middle.

The whole *head* and *neck* covered with fleſhy excreſcences of different colours, or beaded, as it may be called, nearly in the ſame manner as our *cock turkey*.

A *horny ſubſtance* covers the whole length of its breaſt-bone.

The *height* of its *back* is three feet.

DIMENSIONS, &c.

Its *whole* height, with its *neck*, when ſtretched out, is nearly ſeven feet.

Its *length*, from the back part of the neck, to the end of the rump-bone, three feet.

Wings—none; but inſtead of them, five black ſmooth ſolid horny *quills*, (without any feathers on them) growing out of a ſhort ſtump of a bone, ſituated more forward, on the breaſt, than where the wings generally proceed from.

Thighs—fifteen inches at leaſt, covered with feathers almoſt to the knees.

Legs—one foot from the knee to the heel, brown, ſcaly, and very ſtrong.

Toes—three; all ſtand forward, the middle one is five inches long, and the nail one inch; the outward toe rather ſhorter than the middle, but the nail a little longer. The inner toe is very little more than an inch long; but the nail is full three inches.

Tail-feathers—none; the appearance of a tail is made by the long feathers from the back and ſides of the bird.

The *body* of the bird is covered with *black feathers*, which very much reſemble *hair*.

Quills—exceedingly ſhort and ſmall, ſcarce thicker than a pin; from each quill there comes out two diſtinct feathers, which are downy the lower half; and the other half, the rays of the feather are more like hair; the feathers of the back and ſides, which form the tail, are about fifteen inches long, and *all* their rays are like hairs.

The *ſkin* of the bird is white; except juſt above each thigh, which is blue.

The *weight* of the bird, about two hundred pounds.

The whole *plumage* is black.

At particular times the bird makes a rumbling noiſe, which ſeems to ſhake the room like thunder at a diſtance.

☞ The Proprietor of the above Menagerie buys and ſells all ſorts of Living Natural Curioſities.

THE END.

T. Burton, Printer,
Little Queen-ſtreet.

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